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What Is Claimed Is
~~Patent claims~~

1. A method for exchanging signaling information for at least one call connection, which can be switched via a packet-switched network, between subscribers of a circuit-switched network which contains at least one digital originating exchange (VST1) and at least one digital destination exchange (VST2) which are in each case connected directly or indirectly via at least one digital transit exchange (VST3) to an access node or in which the functions of such an access node are integrated, which forms an access to the packet-switched network for the circuit-switched network, in which the signaling and useful information belonging to at least one such call connection can be transmitted via the packet-switched network between such access nodes in the form of data packets, characterized in that such signaling information is exchanged between such an originating and destination exchange, instead of via the packet-switched network, via a signaling network (SN) connected to the circuit-switched network.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the useful information to be transmitted via the packet-switched network, and its associated signaling information to be conducted via the signaling network, are provided with a common, unambiguous identification number.
3. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the billing method of the circuit-switched network is applied to such a call connection established via the packet-switched network by means of such signaling information conducted via a signaling network (SN).

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4. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that, assuming that a direct connection (p2) exists between the access nodes belonging to an originating exchange (VST1) and a further access node belonging to a destination exchange (VST2) or between the originating exchange and the destination exchange, in which the functions of such an access node are integrated, the traffic control function present in an originating or transit exchange is applied to the traffic control of the useful information, belonging to a call connection, in the form of data packets and signaling information to be transmitted via the signaling network (SN).

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